

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT for Region 8

Week ending April 21, 2017

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

Colorado Smelter Site, Pueblo, Colorado

Key Message: – Weekly Highlights

- Soil lead cleanup level discussions with HQs: The April 13, 2017, Lead Site Consultation with management and staff from the OSRTI confirmed that OSRTI is generally supportive of the region's proposed soil lead cleanup level of 350 parts per million (ppm) and our cleanup approach. Regional management will contact OSRTI this week to ensure the region and headquarters agree on the path forward for the Site, so that the early action interim record of decision will be signed before the end of this fiscal year.
- Removal Activities: From April 12-15, the Site On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) completed the duct work pilot study on 2.5 homes that had received an indoor dust cleanup. Difficulties were encountered in finding homes that could participate in the study, due to the presence of aged asbestos tape and joint cloth, flexible duct work and furnaces that could have been damaged by the study. Preliminary analytical results are expected in about two weeks; after which the Site Team will meet to discuss sharing the results with the community.
- City Park Sampling: On April 17, the Site RPM received the city's input on the revised Operable Unit 1 Remedial Investigation Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) to incorporate detailed follow-on soil sampling in the high use/play areas of Benedict Park. The Site RPM and contractor anticipate finalization of the revised QAPP this week. Sampling will be completed shortly after receiving consent from the city for access.
- The RPM and Site attorney are working with the Pueblo School District 60 (D60) attorney regarding EPA's request for consent to sample two school properties within the Site preliminary study area. They are also working with the county attorney regarding EPA's request to sample the county-owned Runyon Fields complex.
- Contact(s): Sabrina Forrest (RPM), 312-6484; Jasmin Guerra (CIC), 312-6062; Lisa McClain-Vanderpool (OCPI), 312-6077; Charlie Partridge (Risk Assessment), 312-6094; Duc Nguyen (OSC), 312-6509; Steven Moores (ENF-L), 312-6857

Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Community Advisory Group Meeting Recap

Key Message: EPA, CDPHE, and the City and County of Denver (CCoD) hosted the second Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the VB/I-70 site on Tuesday night, April 11, at the Globeville Recreational Center in north Denver. Recent community interest in the VB/I-70 site, particularly Operable Unit 2 (OU2), has prompted a series of meetings to explore how EPA might support formation of a CAG for the site. OU2 is a commercial/industrial area where the city is constructing a storm water drainage channel and outfall to the South Platte River under a Time Critical Removal Action.

- No media or congressional staffers were in attendance. Staff from Denver City Councilpersons Kneich's and Brooks' offices were there. The CAG representatives included members from local neighborhood groups, local businesses, and the Sierra Club. Others in attendance included a couple of activists, not from the local area, and about four residents from the local area.
- The meeting went relatively smoothly. There remain concerns about why EPA called the city's work in OU2 a Time-Critical Removal Action. There also is a new request from some of the CAG members to include commercial properties as part of the VB/I-70 Superfund Site.
- The CCoD provided logistical support for the meeting including a facilitator and translation services.

- The agencies will compile notes from the meeting and share them with the CAG representatives prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled for May 9.
- Contact(s): Dania Zinner (RPM), 312-7122, Jennifer Chergo (CIC), 312-6601; Kerry Guy, (OSC), 312-7288

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

No report

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Region 8 met with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe to discuss the Northern Cheyenne Clean Air Act (NCCAA)

Key Message: Air Program staff and ORC met with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe on April 6 and 7 to discuss the Tribe's submission of a NCCAA, which primarily addresses open burning, as a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP). The Tribe will also submit an associated application for Treatment in a manner similar to a State (TAS). The Tribe seeks to assume Clean Air Act responsibility and to make the NCCAA federally enforceable.

- The Tribe will be responsible for maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), beginning with administering, permitting and enforcing an open burning code.
- In addition to the open burning code, the Tribe is already operating an ambient monitoring program for particulate matter (PM) and mercury, and administering a radon education and outreach project.
- The Tribe is currently approved for TAS for a CAA Section 105 grant and under the Clean Water Act for water quality standards.
- Approval of the TIP will require publishing a proposed and final rule in the Federal Register.
- Approval of the TAS application and TIP can take place concurrently.
- Contact: Scott Jackson, 312-6107; Kyle Olson, 312-6002

This Week

Region 8 will be staffing a booth at the Fort Collins Earth Day event

Key Message: On April 22, 2017, Region 8 will participate in the Sustainable Living Association's Earth Day Event at Civic Center Park in Fort Collins, Colorado.

- The event offers a combination of activities and events for the entire family, featuring informational booths and displays, speakers and workshops.
- The theme of this year's Earth Day event is People, Planet, Profit.
- The Partnerships and Environmental Stewardship program will have available information about EPA programs of interest to the general public including: ENERGY STAR, WaterSense, Safer Choice, pesticides information for homeowners, Pollinator Protection, healthy homes, asthma prevention, lead-based paint and radon.
- Contacts: Melisa Devincenzi, 312-6377; Melanie Wood, 312-7006

Region 8 will be staffing a booth at the City and County of Denver Earth Day event

Key Message: On April 21, 2017, Region 8 will participate in the Denver Earth Day event at Skyline Park at the 16th Street Mall and Arapahoe Street

- The EPA will be among the 45 exhibitors participating in this event.
- This year's event will highlight sustainability-related resources available to Denver residents with a focus on renewable energy.
- The Partnerships and Environmental Stewardship program will have available information about EPA programs of interest to the general public including: ENERGY STAR, WaterSense, Safer

Choice, pesticides information for homeowners, Pollinator Protection, healthy homes, asthma prevention, lead-based paint and radon.

- Contacts: Clyde Wilson, 312-6217; Suzanne Satter, 312-6614

Region 8 will also be staffing a booth at the Congress Park Neighborhood Earth Day event

Key Message: On April 22, 2017, Region 8 will participate in the Congress Park 2017 Earth Day celebration. The event will be held outdoors at Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church.

- This year's theme is "Think Globally, Act Locally!"
- The event is designed for neighbor-to-neighbor learning and action to improve the sustainability of the Congress Park Neighborhood, Denver and beyond.
- The Partnerships and Environmental Stewardship program will have available information about EPA programs of interest to the general public including: ENERGY STAR, WaterSense, Safer Choice, pesticides information for homeowners, Pollinator Protection, healthy homes, asthma prevention, lead-based paint and radon.
- Contacts: Clyde Wilson, 312-6217; Nat Miullo, 312-6233

In Two Weeks

Region 8 to present on ENERGY STAR and WaterSense at the quarterly Colorado Association of School District Managers meeting

Key Message: On May 4, 2017, representatives from the Partnerships and Environmental Stewardship Program (PES) will present ENERGY STAR and WaterSense information at the Colorado Association of School District Managers (CASDEM) meeting.

- The PES program will be networking, presenting information related to the ENERGY STAR and WaterSense programs for benchmarking and partnering activities, and seeking feedback from the CASDEM group on ways we may assist and support the efforts of school programs/initiatives moving forward.
- This meeting is being held at the Poudre School District facility in Fort Collins, Colorado, and has previously included participation from many of the major school districts across Colorado.
- Contact: Alysia Tien, 312-7021; Kimberly Pardue-Welch, 312-6983

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

The General Accountability Office (GAO) is Conducting a Review of Tribal Infrastructure Programs

Key Message: GAO is conducting a review of coordination among federal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure assistance programs serving Indian communities.

- Review is focused on federal agencies that provide drinking water and wastewater infrastructure assistance to tribes (EPA; Indian Health Service; USDA Rural Development; Housing and Urban Development; Bureau of Reclamation; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Army Corp of Engineers; Economic Development Administration).
- Review is looking at these agencies' activities nationally and in more detail within 6 states (AZ, AK, CA, NY, OK, and SD).
- A brief electronic questionnaire will be sent to the regional offices of federal agencies that work with Tribes in the states they are focusing on. The survey will go to Rebecca Russo and Minnie Adams.
- GAO plans on interviewing EPA staff involved with the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant – Tribal Set Aside and the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Programs in the relevant EPA regions.
- Contact: Rebecca Russo, 312-6757; Minnie Adams, 312-6624

Public Hearings on the Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permits for the Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project Begin the Week of April 24, 2017.

Key Message: On April 27, 2017 Region 8 will hold its first public hearing in Valentine, NE on the draft UIC permits and associated aquifer exemptions for the Dewey Burdock ISR project located in Edgemont, SD.

- Region will hold 4 public hearings on this project to ensure adequate opportunities for public participation in this proposed action.
- The schedule for public hearings is:
 - April 27 in Valentine, NE
 - May 8-9 in Rapid City, SD
 - May 10 in Hot Springs, SD
 - May 11 in Edgemont, SD
- The EPA will hold public outreach sessions for 1 hour before each public hearing begins. The format of the public outreach sessions will include informational presentations by the EPA with opportunity for the public to ask questions.
- Detailed information about the public hearings was made available on March 6, 2017 in the public notices, on the EPA website and in emails sent out to interested parties.
- The public comment period will end on May 19, 2017.
- Contact: Douglas Minter, 312-6079